



MADD
Activism | Victim Services | Education

Gallatin County Chapter
P.O. Box 11002
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To: *Senate*
~~House~~ Judiciary Committee

From: Jenny Haubenreiser, MADD Gallatin County, Public Policy Liaison

Date: 3/22/2007

Re: Support of HB 423

On behalf of MADD Gallatin County, we would like to express our support for HB 423. Increasing sanctions for those who refuse to take a BAC test is a national priority and a strong step toward enforcing drunk driving laws in Montana. This also sends an important message to the public – for too long drunk drivers in Montana have been able to avoid sanctions by refusing this test. Other states have addressed this by creating penalties for refusal that are as strong as a DUI conviction. Legal operation of a motor vehicle is a privilege that should imply consent to take a chemical test when law enforcement officers have probable cause. Refusal to take this test should result in much stricter sanctions than currently exist, including longer, 'hard' license suspension, increased fines, chemical dependency screening and installation of an interlock device. Please give this bill careful consideration. Montana remains number one in the nation for drunk driving fatalities. Only through this and other laws can we begin to reduce this terrible crime.

Please contact me for any additional information at 406-994-2337 or hoss@montana.edu.